The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

3

Story & Art by

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The Fourth Friend: Part 2
CHAPTER 8

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3

Contents

CHAPTER 8 The Fourth Friend: Part 2 | 007

CHAPTER 9 The Crimson Flames Burning in Darkness | 041

CHAPTER 10 Dream or Illusion?! A Banquet at Momochi House | 083

CHAPTER 11 The Nue of Chinui Cavern | 125

The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

Aoi Nanamori

When he was 7 years old, he wandered into Momochi House and was chosen as the Omamori-sama. He transforms into a nue to perform his duties, but it seems this role was meant for Himari.

Omamori-sama (Nue)

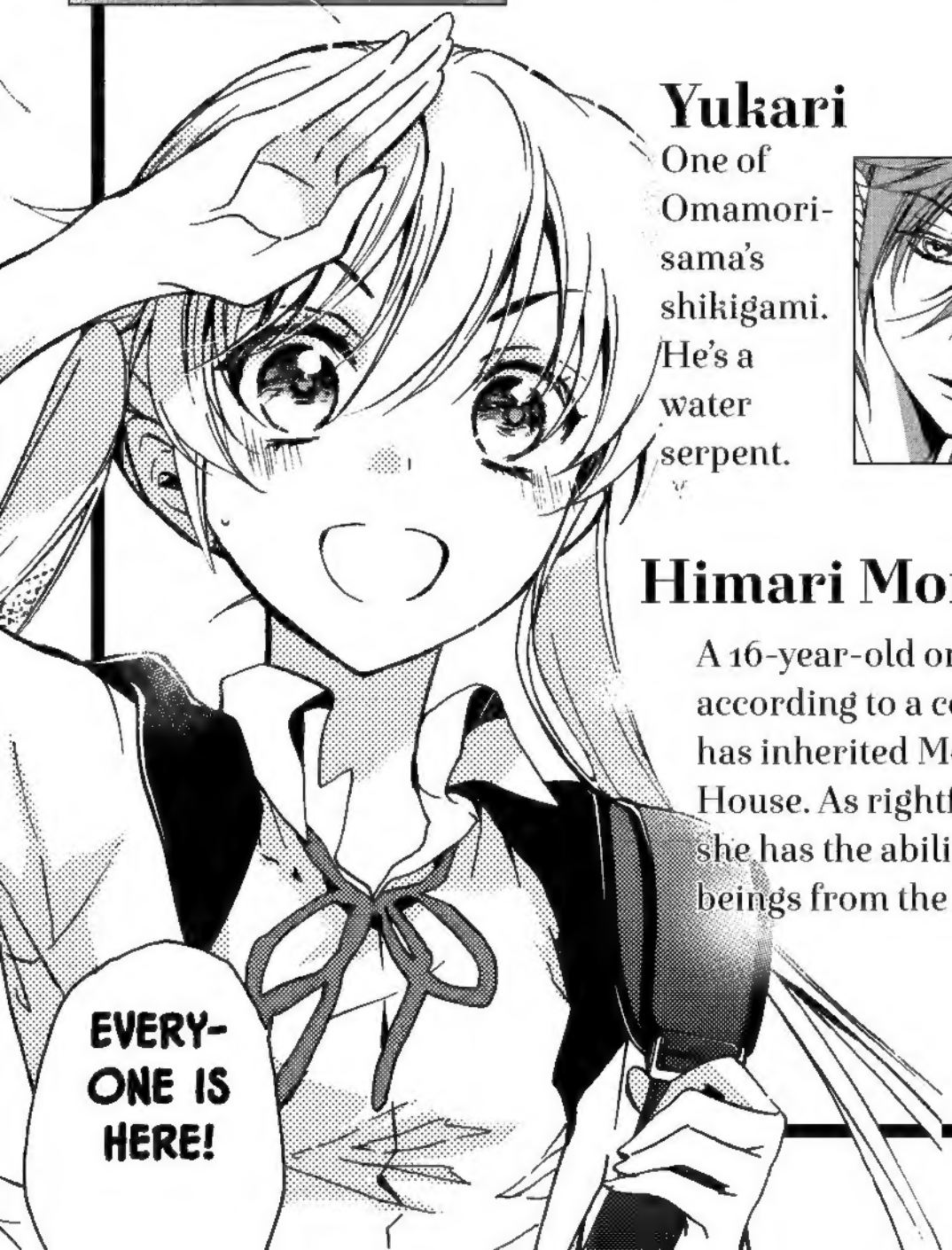
An ayakashi, or demon, with the ears of a cat, the wings of a bird, and the tail of a fox. As the Omamori-sama, the nue protects Momochi House and eliminates demons who make their way in from the spiritual realm.

Ise

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's an orangutan.

Yukari

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's a water serpent.



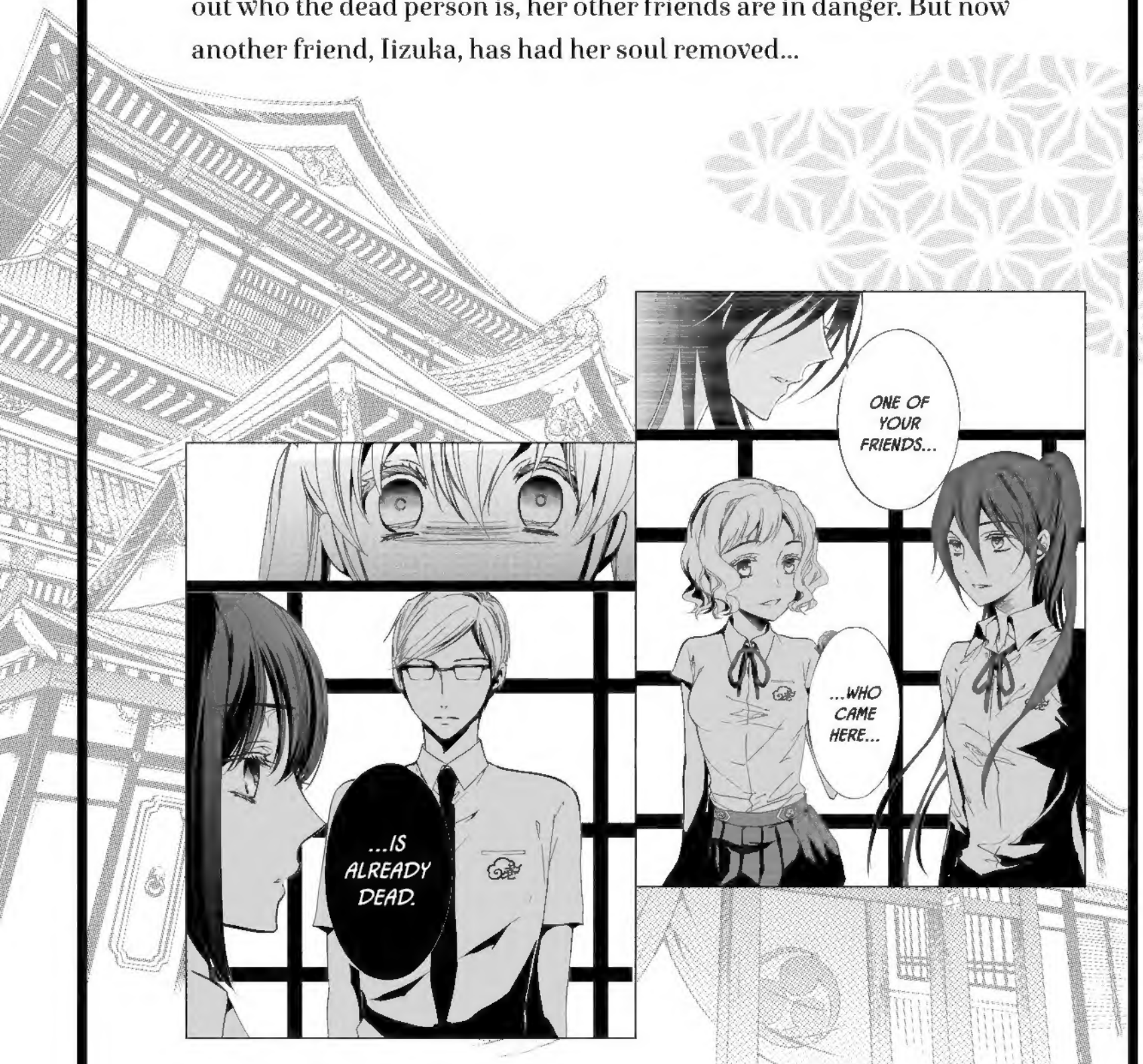
Himari Momochi

A 16-year-old orphan who, according to a certain will, has inherited Momochi House. As rightful owner, she has the ability to expel beings from the house.

Lesser Yokai

Momochi House: Story Thus Far

Himari has become accustomed to living in Momochi House and starts attending school. On her first day, she makes four friends who invite themselves over, curious to see the rumored haunted house. After meeting them, Aoi declares that one of her friends is already dead. This spirit was able to enter Momochi House because Himari—the landlady—allowed it. Her friend is absorbing Momochi House's energy and quickly transforming into a demon. Until Himari figures out who the dead person is, her other friends are in danger. But now another friend, Iizuka, has had her soul removed...



AIKA TORII

I STARTED ATTENDING SCHOOL.

UNEXPECTEDLY, FOUR NEW FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL SHOWED UP AT MOMOCHI HOUSE TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE RUMORS ABOUT THIS PLACE ARE TRUE.

BUT ACCORDING TO AOI...

...ONE OF THEM IS ALREADY DEAD.

TADASHI SENOO

RUI MADARAME

HANA IIZUKA

KLAK

MY FRIENDS ARE IN DANGER. I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO THE DEAD PERSON IS SOON.

BUT IIZUKA WAS ATTACKED BEFORE I COULD FIND ANY CLUES.

HER SOUL HAS BEEN REMOVED...

DID THE SPIRIT DO THIS?

IT SEEMS SO.

I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING QUICKLY BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT!

...

KLAK

BUT IT'S BEST TO KEEP THIS FROM EVERYONE ELSE FOR NOW.

HUH? WHERE'S IIZUKA?

SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP. SHE WENT HOME.

VEEN
VEEN
LET'S GO GET IT FROM ISEKO'S ROOM...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I TIED MY HAND-KERCHIEF ON ONE OF THOSE STUFFED ANIMALS BEFORE IT WAS TAKEN AWAY.
HUH? OH...
TMP
KRRK
ME TOO! I WANT TO TAKE A PEEK IN THE OTHER ROOMS!
I-I'D LIKE TO SEE A LITTLE MORE OF THE HOUSE!
REALLY? PERHAPS WE SHOULD GET GOING TOO...
WITHOUT KNOWING WHO IS DEAD, I CAN'T LET THEM GO OFF ON THEIR OWN.
BUT WHAT NOW?
THEN... LET'S ALL GO TOGETHER!
EVERY-ONE...
WHAT IF I MAKE THEM STAND IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR...?
...FOLLOW ME...
I SENSED SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT IIZUKA'S REFLEC-TION...
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MIRROR...

WE'RE ALMOST BY THE MIRROR...

OH, I GET IT...

HUH?

I-I'LL WAIT HERE. GO ON WITHOUT ME.

HAT

I-I CAN'T ENTER A LADY'S ROOM!

BLUSH

YOU'RE EMBARRASSED TO GO INTO ISEKO'S ROOM.

THAT'S HIS REASON?!

BLUSH

SHK SHK

...SEE MY BASHFUL RED FACE!

AAAH! I CAN'T LET SOMEONE SO BEAUTIFUL...

COME ON. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET CLOSER TO ISEKO!

THIS IS ABOUT ISEKO?

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS...

A MAIDEN ?!

HE HAS THE HEART OF A MAIDEN. I KNOW JUST HOW HE FEELS.

HEE HEE

SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON YOU TODAY, HIMARI.

BUT I'M HAPPY THAT COMING HERE BROUGHT US CLOSER.

I...

I DIDN'T THINK I'D MAKE ANY FRIENDS ON MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

OH... I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

I SEE.

...SO I'VE NEVER HAD FRIENDS...

...HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL FOR A WHILE...

I'M GLAD I MUSTERED THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

KLAK

A CERTAIN SOMEONE?

I HAVE A CERTAIN SOMEONE TO THANK FOR TEACHING ME THAT.

SHFF

WHAT...?

JOLT

SOMEONE ELSE...

TMP TMP TMP

WAIT UP, YOU TWO!

WAS THAT AOI AND THE OTHERS?

NO...

...IS THERE.

TREMBL

WHAT WAS THAT PRESENCE I FELT?

OH

ARE WE GOING THE RIGHT WAY, MOMOCHI?

HUH? UM, YES.

AH...

HEY, TORII...

WHO WAS THAT PERSON YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

HUH?

WHO'S TORII?

TORII...

SHE... HAS NO REFLEC-TION.

...SEE HER.

THEY CAN'T...

HA HA

I'M MADARAME, AND THIS IS SENOO.

THERE'S NO TORII HERE.

TORII...

...IS THE ONE WHO'S DEAD.

HIMARI!

KYAA

AOI!

TORII IS THE DEAD PERSON...

POINT AT IT!

SWIP

COMMAND THE DEAD PERSON TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!

I'M GLAD I MUSTERED THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

I HAVE A CERTAIN SOMEONE TO THANK FOR TEACHING ME THAT.

BUT...

THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

...

HURRY!

NO...

BUT...

HIMARI?!

YOU GET OUT!!

HUH?

KLAK

IIZUKA...?

...

WHAT IS THAT POWER? IT'S NOT THAT OF AN AYAKASHI.

WHAT WAS THAT SPELL...

...YOU USED ON ME?!

!!

Yo os

GRAB

THESE BLACK FLAMES...

FAINT

W-WHAT?

SENOO!

KASHA.

I CAME HERE TO HAVE SOME FUN...

...AND YOU THROW ME OUT WITH SOME STRANGE POWER.

WHO IS THAT GIRL? YOUR NEW SHIKIGAMI?

I THOUGHT THE AYAKASHI WERE TOO QUIET...

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE INVOLVED IN THIS.

AOI?!

SWISH

HIMARI ISN'T A SHIKIGAMI. IF YOU LAY A HAND ON HER...

...YOU'LL REGRET IT.

OH?

NOW I'M EVEN MORE TEMPTED...

FLOOD

END

YUKARI, ISE— PROTECT HIMARI!

AOI!

YES!

SHIFT

HURRY UP AND BECOME THE NUE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

SOOF
TORII?!
THISH
...SO YOU CAN MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE?
NOW, GIRL...
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO BECOME A POWERFUL AYAKASHI...
SSSH

SOF

TORII?!

THISH

...SO YOU CAN MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE?

NOW, GIRL...

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO BECOME A POWERFUL AYAKASHI...

WISH

DEVOUR THE OMAMORI-SAMA WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU.

IF I BECOME POWER-FUL....

...EVERY-ONE WILL NOTICE ME...

MMBL

MMBL

VISH

...AND I'LL HAVE FRIENDS...

YOU'LL BE SHAT-TERED TO PIECES...

...BUT I'LL BANISH YOU BEFORE YOU BECOME HIS PUPPET.

DON'T WORRY. I CAN SEE YOU!

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

I WANT FRIENDS...

...

...

GLOW

I'M LONELY.

I'M LONELY.

SOME-ONE...

...BE MY FRIEND.

!!

NO ONE CAN SEE YOU IF YOU'RE DEAD.

IF YOU ENTER MOMOCHI HOUSE AND BECOME A POWERFUL AYAKASHI, PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU...

...AND THEY'LL BECOME YOUR FRIENDS...

LOOK.

THAT GIRL HAS THE SCENT OF MOMOCHI...

GET HER TO LEAD YOU THERE.

I JUST WANTED...

...TO BE FRIENDS WITH SOME-ONE...

... THAT'S ALL...

YEAH.

I KNOW...

DON'T SAY THERE ISN'T ANYONE...

BUT WE'RE ALREADY FRIENDS, AREN'T WE? FRIENDS!

SKREEE

THANK YOU...

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, YOU GNAT?

YOU JERK!

I GUESS A FRAIL LITTLE GHOST CAN HARDLY PROVIDE MUCH ENTERTAINMENT.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH HER.

...

NUE... COULD IT BE THAT YOU-

STOP WASTING OUR TIME, KASHA.

...MY FRIEND.

I'LL BE BACK...

FINE.

NEXT TIME I'LL PREPARE SOMETHING MORE FUN.

HMPH!

OKAY, NUE?

DON'T EVER COME BACK!

...

SUFF

HIMARI.

WHAT'S HIS PROB-LEM?!

HE CALLS THE NUE HIS FRIEND?

HE'S WAY BEYOND ANY OTHER AYAKASHI YOU'VE SEEN.

FORGET ABOUT HIM.

?!

BUT...

I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED.

THAT'S RIGHT. I ALMOST FORGOT!

OH

URGHH...

SHOVE

YOU DON'T NEED TO...

...APOLO-GIZE FOR THAT.

S-SORRY ABOUT THAT. THAT WAS, UM...

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? SOME KIND OF BLACK SHADOW CAME OUT, THEN...

PHOO

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT MATTERS ANYMORE.

SINCE WE'VE FIGURED THAT OUT, WE SHOULD GET GOING.

MOMOCHI HOUSE IS COMPLETELY ORDINARY. THERE IS NO CURSE.

IT'S A STRETCH! IT'S REALLY A STRETCH...

SWMP

MY CHIMNEY IS MALFUNC-TIONING!

VUP

I FEEL LIGHT-HEADED TOO FROM BREATHING IN THE SOOT.

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE... THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE...

Urgh...

MADARAME ...

UM...

Hmm. That's odd

I DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING.

SH-SHE KNEW!

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...

AND I'M SURE YOUR FAMILY HAS SOME IMPORTANT REASON FOR PLAYING DRESS-UP.

WELL, I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT, HIMARI!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

BUT WE ENDED UP FORMING A BOND.

SHAA

OH...

THEY SAW THINGS YET DIDN'T SEE THINGS...

SEE YOU TOMORROW...

...RUI.

A VAPOR TRAIL.

IT'S LIKE A THIN PIECE OF THREAD...

...BUT IT'S DEFINITELY THERE.

...TORII?

THE FOUR OF US WERE FRIENDS, WEREN'T WE...

SO FRAGILE...

THE WIND COULD EASILY BREAK IT.

Chapter 8/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The Crimson Flames Burning in Darkness

CHAPTER 9

SHHH...

PWOP

AAH!

OH MY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, AOI?

ZOOP

DON'T TELL HIMARI I'M HERE.

He sold me out for snacks

"OH, THERE YOU ARE," MY FOOT.

DID YOU LIKE THE LUNCH YUKARI PACKED?

OH, THERE YOU ARE, HIMARI. WELCOME BACK.

POING♥

I FOUND YOU, AOI!

...ABOUT KASHA.

I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE WHEN I DIDN'T SEE YOU AFTER I GOT HOME FROM SCHOOL. AND NOW I FIND YOU HIDING HERE.

TODAY YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME...

FORGET ABOUT HIM.

ANSWER MY QUESTION!

YOU TOLD ME I COULD ASK YOU ANYTHING.

He might put a curse on me.

SWIP

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT HIM BECAUSE HE'S SCARY.

STOP THAT!

SUF

BLUSH

A-AOI!

WILL YOU GIVE ME A REWARD IF I TELL YOU?

POOF

EEK!

OUTRA-GEOUS!

YOU'RE FLIRTING IN FRONT OF MY HOME! I'LL PUT A CURSE ON YOU! I'LL DEFINITELY PUT A CURSE ON YOU!

NO, WE WEREN'T FLIRTING OR ANY-THING...

...

WHAT IS THIS?

VEEN

HE RAN AWAY!

HE'S GONE!

RIGHT, AOI?

HM?

AH, ENOUGH!

YARL YARL

HEY, YOU! ARE YOU LISTENING? YOU ACT BRAZENLY FOR A NEW-COMER!

Are you calling me a scrib-ble?!

NO, I WAS JUST WONDERING ABOUT THIS SCRIBBLE...

YUKARI.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE FOLDING SCREEN, HIMARI?

Yukari!

A SCRIBBLE? THAT'S NOT A VERY NICE THING TO SAY ABOUT THAT FOLDING SCREEN.

ANY-WAY...

...AOI HAS AN UNUSUAL AVERSION TOWARDS HIM.

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT...

IT'S NO USE TRYING TO GET AOI TO TALK ABOUT KASHA.

ASK ISE ABOUT HIM.

?!

ISE?!

I WANT TO KNOW WHY.

...

ISE, THE ORANGUTAN AYAKASHI...

...IS A FIRE-TYPE LIKE KASHA.

HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

THE ORANG-UTAN AYAKASHI ?

ITS BODY...

...BURNS WITH CRIMSON FIRE, AND ITS ROAR CAN BE HEARD FAR AND WIDE.

IT IS A HIGH-RANKING LEGENDARY DEMON.

NOW THEN...

HUH?!

YUKARI SAID YOU WERE THE SAME FIRE-TYPE AYAKASHI LIKE KASHA-

SAME FIRE-TYPE?! OUR FLAMES ARE DIFFERENT COLORS!

URK

RH

H

M

HUH?

WHY DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT KASHA?

"BOSS," HUH?

I REFUSE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOSS OF THE MOUNTAIN AND HIS WEIRD FLAMES.

JOLT

DOES THAT MEAN HE'S STRONGER THAN YOU?

HIS FLAMES ARE BLACK.

THEY'RE FLAMES OF DARKNESS. THEY ENGULF EVERYTHING.

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN HIM, HUH?

Hmm

POI

DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE ME, HUMAN!

...ARE THE FIRES OF HELL! THEY BURN EVERYTHING TO ASH!

...FLAMES...

MY...

HUH?!

I...

THEN THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO MAKE DISAPPEAR.

ISE?

I CUT ALL TIES TO OTHER AYAKASHI...

...WHEN I BECAME AOI'S SHIKIGAMI.

I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH KASHA NOW.

THE WORLD OF DEMONS IS RATHER HARSH.

AYAKASHI OF NOBLE BLOOD AND OLD DEMONS WHO HAVE LIVED LONG ARE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.

MNCH MNCH

SHK
SHK
W-WE ARE YOKAI OF MOMOCHI HOUSE!
AOI IS MASTER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE, AND HIS POWER IS ABSOLUTE.
I'M... NOT AFRAID OF L-LORD KASHA... NOPE.
ACTING TOUGH, HUH?
HE'S "LORD KASHA," HUH?
WE LESSER YOKAI TREMBLE JUST SPEAKING HIS NAME.
LORD KASHA IS UNRIVALED IN BOTH THESE QUALITIES.
HMM... I WONDER IF THAT'S WHY ISE WAS ACTING STRANGE.
WE CAN'T STAND UP TO HIM.
MNCH MNCH
BUT THERE IS A DEMON HIERARCHY...
WE ARE NOT AFRAID!
THIS IS PATHETIC.
WHY WOULD SUCH A POWERFUL AYAKASHI RESORT TO SUCH A CHILDISH PRANK...?

KR
SH

THE AYAKASHI ARE BECOMING RESTLESS BEHIND THE SEALED DOORS...

...HE SHOULD HAVE BURNED ALL THE SEALS AT ONCE.

IF HE REALLY WANTED TO LET SOME AYAKASHI LOOSE...

ALL HE'S DOING IS DESTROYING THE SEALS YOU PLACED.

EVEN SO, THIS IS A LAME WAY TO ANNOY US.

...WE INVITED HIM INTO MOMOCHI HOUSE?

IS IT BECAUSE ...

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO?

THE SEAL ON THIS HALL SEEMS TO BE OKAY.

KLAK

OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO INSPECT EACH SEAL ONE BY ONE.

BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHICH SEAL WILL COME OFF, SO IT'S STILL A BIT DANGEROUS.

AOI!

HIMARI?!

GRAB

I FINALLY FOUND YOU.

THEY FORM A BARRIER.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO CROSS THEM.

FWAK

YOU FOUND ME?

I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO COME HERE...

I PUT UP *SHIMENAWA*.

*Rope to ward off evil spirits

THE SHIMENAWA LED ME TO YOU!

I'M A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW.

THEN ARE YOU A SITTING DUCK...

...WHO FIGHTS DEMONS WITH A LEEK?

YOU'RE HUMAN TOO, AOI.

YOU'LL BE EASY PREY IF YOU COME HERE-LIKE A SITTING DUCK WITH ITS OWN LEEK FOR DUCK SOUP!

SHUT UP!

...YOU NEED TO TELL ME ABOUT KASHA.

BECAUSE ...

YOU'RE SO STUBBORN, HIMARI.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HYPNOTIZED AGAIN.

WHY WON'T YOU STOP TALKING ABOUT KASHA?

HIMARI ...

STOP SAYING THAT NAME!

BUT HIS MARKS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE. DOESN'T IT ANNOY YOU TOO?

I TRIED TO ERASE THEM, BUT THEY WON'T DISAPPEAR. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE ORDINARY SCRIBBLES.

MARKS?

DO YOU SEE SOMETHING, HIMARI?

DON'T YOU SEE...

HUH?

KLAK

LOOK, THEY'RE ALL DOWN HERE TOO.

...THAT ARE DRAWN ALL OVER THE HOUSE?

...THOSE THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE BLACK WHEELS...

FOOM

KLAK

KLAK

LOOK OUT, HIMARI!

GRRRR

R

R

R

...

GOZU...

KASHA!

HE PLANNED ALL THIS, DIDN'T HE?

YOUR NONSENSE IN MY HOUSE STOPS NOW!

GLOW

I'VE GOT YOU NOW, NUE!

AOI!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

THUSH

KRIK

KRIK

A TRAP?!

AOI!

IS THIS...

...A TRAP HE SET FOR THE NUE?!

SS

FWOOM

WHAT THE HELL IS KASHA DOING TO AOI?

KASHA'S FLAMES OF DARKNESS ABSORB AYAKASHI ENERGY.

IF WE GET NEAR IT, OUR POWER WILL SIMPLY FAN THE FLAMES.

ISE!

FOOOO

AOI!

WE NEED A SPELL TO EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES

THEN WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

AOI WILL BE SWALLOWED UP!

GWARR HH

I WON'T LET KASHA GET AWAY WITH THIS!

YUKARI! BEHIND YOU!

NO.

WHY DID I BECOME A SHIKIGAMI?

WAS IT TO GIVE IN TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

LOOK OUT, ISE! RIGHT NOW-

AOOO

ISE! ISE! WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE GOING TO BURN THE HOUSE DOWN!

WE HAVE GIVEN OUR ENERGY TO THE NUE AS PART OF OUR SHIKIGAMI CONTRACT.

AND ITS ROAR CAN BE HEARD FAR AND WIDE.

AOOOOOO

NOW THAT THE NUE IS POWER-LESS...

ISE WILL BURN HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN FLAMES.

OUR BOND AS SHIKIGAMI HAS BEEN SEVERED.

WHAT A SAD HOWL...

THAT'S NOT BECAUSE HIS BODY IS BURN-ING.

IT'S THE SOUND OF HIS HEART ACHING...

...NUE.

...

NICE GOING. I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO FALL FOR THIS TRAP...

YOU DIDN'T SEE THE CRESTS I PLANTED, DID YOU?

IT'S PROOF THAT...

...YOU'RE ALREADY MORE AYAKASHI THAN HUMAN.

AOI!

SHALL WE ENTER IT TOGETHER?

WELCOME TO THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD OF DARKNESS FILLED WITH PAIN AND PLEASURE.

GRAB

COME BACK.

SNAP OUT OF IT!

YOUR SHIKIGAMI IS CALLING TO YOU!

...IS HOWLING...

ISE...

CAN'T YOU HEAR HIM?

THIS WAY!

ISE!

OVER HERE!

GRIP

...THE BOND OF A SHIKIGAMI...

OVER HERE.

ZISH

I WON'T LET...

...BE SEVERED.

ISE, USE YOUR FLAMES.

DON'T BURN...

SHINE LIGHT!

GET RID OF THESE FLAMES OF DARKNESS!

HIMARI...

?!

FWASH

I'M OVER HERE, AOI...

THOW

NOW THEN, ISE...

BURN HIM TO ASHES WITH REAL FLAMES!

¡OOOOOA

AHH...

MY HOUSE...

WE CAN FIX IT.

SHUT UP.

...WE CAN FINALLY CLAIM VICTORY OVER KASHA, HUH.

ONCE WE GET THAT DONE...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

SHUT UP...

WHO KNEW HIMARI COULD SEE THOSE HIDDEN CRESTS?

IF ONLY...

...WE HAD TAKEN HER SERIOUSLY SOONER...

SHE POSSESSES QUALITIES I DON'T HAVE.

SHE MAY BE...

...THE MOST IMPORTANT LIGHT THAT SHINES IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE STILL HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT HER.

WE NEED TO CHANGE THAT.

IT WASN'T JUST THE RUNES.

SHE'S NOT RESTRICTED BY ANYTHING, SO IT ALLOWS HER TO SHOW US WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

DOES IT BOTHER YOU THAT...

...YOU COULDN'T SEE THOSE CRESTS?

HE PROBABLY MADE IT SO THAT YOU COULDN'T SEE THEM-

NO... IT WAS A TRAP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY WEAKNESS.

IT'S PROOF THAT...

...YOU'RE ALREADY MORE AYAKASHI THAN HUMAN.

HE ALWAYS TARGETS THE THINGS I DON'T LIKE.

BEFORE...

...IT WOULD NEVER UNSETTLE ME LIKE THIS...

HUG

TMP

AH!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, AOI?

NOTHING AT ALL.

CHU

WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I MADE A WISH...

AN ACCI-DENT?

HOW IS THAT AN ACCI-DENT?!

Um ?

SHOVE

AOI!

SORRY, IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT.

TO BE WITH YOU.

Chapter 9/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

I-I'm not just messing around..

OH, SORRY. I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WERE OFF SCHOOL TODAY.

I'M TIDYING THINGS UP. OR RATHER, I'M HAVING A LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE.

OH

HIMARI, ARE YOU FREE TODAY?

But I'm still pretty busy.

YEAH, I AM...

HMM...

HUH?

I THOUGHT AOI COULDN'T LEAVE MOMOCHI HOUSE.

GO OUT?

SHALL WE GO OUT FOR A BIT?

CHAPTER 10

...IS SO CUTE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THIS!
THIS...
WE HAD THEM IN THE HOUSE. THEY FIT YOU PERFECTLY.
SHE'S NOT A HORSE, ISE.
IT'S LIKE DRESSING UP A HORSE.

CHAPTER 10

Dream or Illusion?! A Banquet at Momochi House

I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, YUKARI.

CHAPTER 10

Dream or Illusion?! A Banquet at Momochi House

THIS...

...IS SO CUTE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THIS!

WE HAD THEM IN THE HOUSE. THEY FIT YOU PERFECTLY.

SHE'S NOT A HORSE, ISE.

IT'S LIKE DRESSING UP A HORSE.

YOU MUSTN'T REMOVE IT.

WHAT IS THIS?

PONK

HEY!

!

YOUR LOOK IS NOW COMPLETE.

THERE YOU GO, HIMARI.

?

AND YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE THE NUE'S SIDE.

NOW...

...SHALL WE GET GOING? IT'S NOT VERY FAR.

THANKS...

THIS FEELS...

THAT THING ON YOUR HEAD IS VERY CUTE.

WE'RE STILL IN THE HOUSE THOUGH!

...KIND OF LIKE A DATE...

...OR SOMETHING.

KLAK

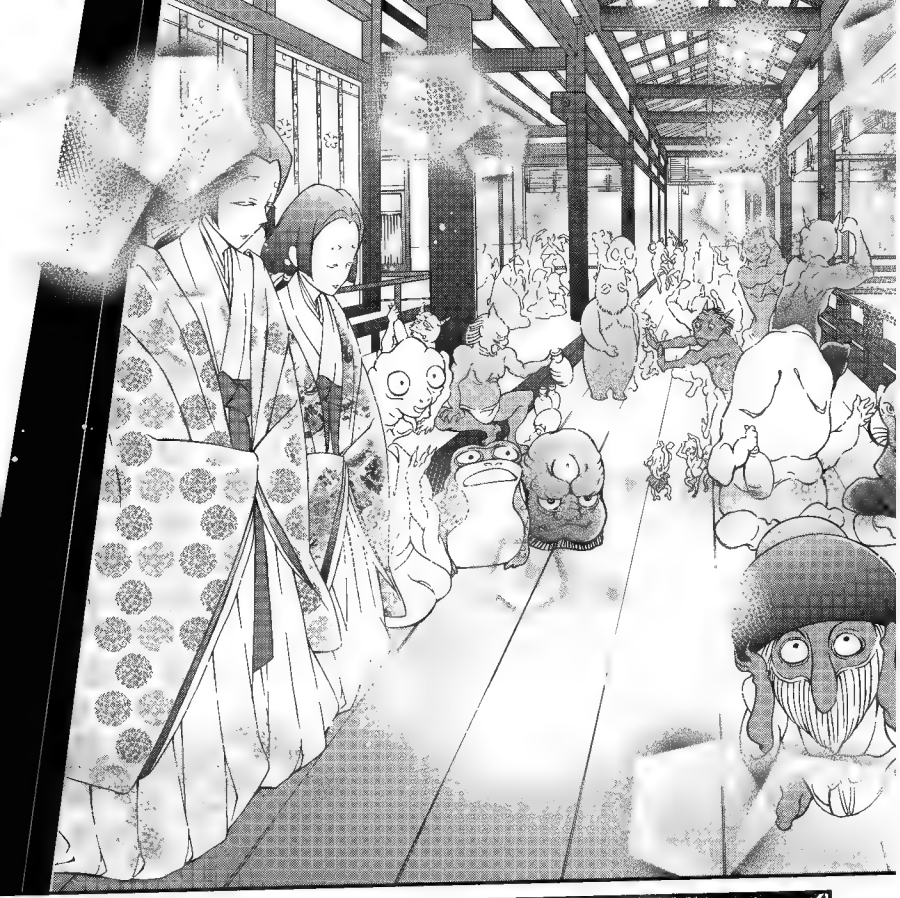
HERE. THIS IS OUR DESTINATION.

WHERE ARE WE GOING, AOI?

HEH

YOU MUSTN'T COME HERE BY YOURSELF.

HUH? THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME THIS FAR IN...



WOW...

A COURT-YARD?
IT'S AMAZING. I HAD NO IDEA MOMOCHI HOUSE HAD SUCH A PLACE.
THERE ARE SO MANY AYAKASHI...

WOW...

A COURT-YARD?

IT'S AMAZING. I HAD NO IDEA MOMOCHI HOUSE HAD SUCH A PLACE.

THERE ARE SO MANY AYAKASHI...

AOI, THAT FORM...

CALL ME NUE.

THIS AREA OF MOMOCHI HOUSE IS CLOSEST TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM, THE PLACE WHERE AYAKASHI DWELL.

IT'S MORE NATURAL FOR YOU TO CALL ME NUE HERE.

LET'S GO.

OOH

OH, NUE.

CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.

NUE...

CONGRATULATIONS.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS OCCASION.

IS THERE SOME KIND OF CELEBRATION TODAY?

THERE WILL BE A CEREMONY.

BUT BEFORE THAT, WE WILL BE ATTENDING A BANQUET.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT FOLLOWING THE CONVENTIONS. JUST HAVE FUN.

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

I'M NOT READY TO GET MARRIED!!

A CER-EMONY...

...AND A BANQUET...

THIS...

COULD IT BE?

B-BMP

B-BMP

B-BMP

GLOOM

MY NEW SHIKIGAMI. DON'T MIND HER.

NUE, WHO IS THAT WITH YOU?

YOU MUSTN'T REMOVE IT.

SO THAT'S WHY HE MADE ME WEAR THIS THING ON MY HEAD...

Why do I feel disappointed?

WAIT.

Chow time!

HALT

SINCE I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, I'M GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT!

IN THAT CASE, I WON'T HOLD BACK!

YOU SHOULDN'T EAT THE FOOD SERVED TO AYAKASHI.

IT'S NOT LIKE WHAT YUKARI PREPARES.

IT MIGHT BE MADE OF MUD.

HEH

NO WAY...

THEN...

...WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE, AOI—I MEAN, NUE?

SUFF

ARE YOU DIS-PLEASED?

SHFF

THIS IS BAD.

HIS TOUCH...IS DIFFERENT FROM AOI'S...

I CAN'T MOVE...

IS THERE A PROB-LEM?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO SHOW YOU AYAKASHI IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

...

HOW WONDERFUL!

HOW WONDER-FUL!

NUE SURE IS LUCKY!

...

THEY CERTAINLY AREN'T...

...THE FRIGHTENING DEMONS HUMANS THINK THEY ARE.

AND THEY AREN'T LIKE THE AYAKASHI WHO CAUSE TROUBLE IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.

I HAD NO IDEA THEY HAD SUCH A LIVELY AND FUN SIDE.

VUP

OKAY THEN...

IF I CAN'T EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING...

...I'LL JOIN IN THE DANCE!

?!

Teach me how to do that!

HEH

HEH HEH... THIS BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES.

AT THE ORPHANAGE, I WAS KNOWN AS THE FESTIVAL DANCE QUEEN...

THERE...

FWIK

TMP

NUE!

DID YOU SEE ME?

OH

IT'S COMING UNDONE.

ARE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF TONIGHT, NUE?

OH MY... THINGS SURE ARE LIVELY HERE.

AH! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER!

THE YEARS HAVE PASSED...

...AND THIS DAY HAS COME AGAIN...

FELICITA-TIONS.

HM? IS TODAY NUE'S BIRTHDAY OR SOME-THING?

OH, IT THIS YOUR NEW SHIKIGAMI?

OUR CURRENT NUE SEEMS VERY POWERFUL.

I'M SURE THE CEREMONY WILL GO WITHOUT INCIDENT SINCE THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'RE PERFORMING IT.

YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YOU, GUARDIAN?

I GUESS IT REALLY IS SOME KIND OF BIRTHDAY CELEBRA-TION.

SHOW OFF YOUR DANCING AND SINGING.

I SUGGEST YOU HAVE A LITTLE MORE TO DRINK.

THE BANQUET IS NOW IN FULL SWING.

KLAP KLAP

I RECEIVED MOMOCHI HOUSE ON MY BIRTHDAY.

AT FIRST I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO.

AND I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT MANY OF MY DUTIES ARE AS LAND-LADY.

IN THAT CASE, I'D LIKE TO GET HIM SOMETHING BEFORE THIS BANQUET IS OVER.

VEEN

AND YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE THE NUE'S SIDE.

ALL THE AYAKASHI ARE ENJOYING THEM-SELVES.

I'M SURE IT WOULD BE FINE TO LEAVE FOR A MOMENT.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO CHERISH HIS BIRTHDAY TOO.

BUT THIS HOUSE...

...HAS GIVEN ME MANY NEW EXPERIENCES.

WHOA!

WHAT, ARE YOU JEALOUS OF MY BEAUTY?!

FWOP

HMM... PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T PLUCK THEM.

PONDER

BUT THIS IS STILL A PART OF MOMOCHI HOUSE...

OH...

I COULD GIVE HIM A FLOWER.

SHE'S LIKE A TOY...

YOU'RE AN AYAKASHI TOO. HOW ODD OF YOU TO APOLOGIZE.

I WON'T PLUCK YOU.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AN AYAKASHI.

OH, I'M SORRY.

BEAUTY IS SUCH A SIN...

HIMARI HAS A SPECIAL DISPOSITION THAT AGITATES AYAKASHI...

B-BUMP

HUH?

BUT YOU HAVE A VERY PLEASANT SMELL.

HUH?!

BLUSH

HUH?! WHAT?!

I CAN TELL... FLOWERS ALWAYS WANT TO BE GIVEN TO THE OBJECT OF ONE'S AFFECTIONS.

TWST

TWIST

MIGHT THAT BE THE SMELL OF LOVE?

I'M AN AYAKASHI WHO'S ALWAYS AN ALLY OF A GIRL IN LOVE! ♡

THESE HERE ARE REGULAR FLOWERS, SO GO RIGHT AHEAD AND PICK THEM.

THANK YOU!

Careful, now. Careful!

I'M GOING BACK TO THE BAN-QUET.

TMP

I HAVE SOME-THING TO GIVE HIM.

HUH?!

HIMARI.

IS IT TO KEEP SOMETHING FROM ESCAPING?

THEY REMIND ME OF KASHA'S TRAP.

THE BANQUET AREA IS ROPED OFF...

ARE THESE BLACK SHIMENAWA?

IS THE PARTY BORING YOU?

YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER THE WRONG IMPRESSION.

SUSPI-CIOUS?

IT MIGHT BE A TRAP LIKE THE ONE KASHA SET UP-

NUE! I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS PARTY.

WE ARE WITHIN THE PREMISES OF MOMOCHI HOUSE...

...AND THIS IS AN AYAKASHI PARTY.

NUE, IT'S TIME.

YUKARI, ISE...

STAND BACK, HIMARI.

PREPARE YOURSELF, NUE.

FWI

SH

HOW WON-DERFUL.

CONGRATU-LATIONS.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, NUE.

THE MOOD OF THE PARTY HAS CHANGED

IT WILL BRING PEACE. WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT VILE DEMON TERRORIZING US AGAIN UNTIL THE NEXT TIME.

WE'RE SO THANKFUL THE SEAL ON CHINUI CAVERN IS GOING TO BE REPLACED.

IT'S THE ELDERLY MAN FROM EARLIER.

NUE...

...FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS...

...BUT...

NUE, ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE CEREMONY?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T HAD QUITE ENOUGH ALCOHOL.

IF YOU'RE MOCKING ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME...

...I'LL SHOW YOU THAT MY PHYSICAL AND AYAKASHI POWER ARE MUCH IMPROVED.

THAT WON'T BE A PROB-LEM.

HOW WILL YOU ENDURE THE PAIN OF THE CEREMONY?

WHAT IS THIS AYAKASHI GOING TO MAKE NUE DO?

I MEANT NO DISRESPECT.

THE FIRST TIME YOU PERFORMED THE SEALING CEREMONY, YOUR VESSEL WAS THAT OF A BOY, AND YOU SPENT A WHOLE MONTH IN BED AFTERWARD.

I'M MERELY WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONSTITUTION.

!

SHIK

THE SEAL ON CHINUI CAVERN RESTRAINS THE DEMON KNOWN AS SOGA. HIS MALEVOLENT ENERGY IS QUITE POWERFUL.

NO OTHER AYAKASHI ASIDE FROM THE MANY GENERATIONS OF NUE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERFORM THE RITUAL TO RESEAL HIM.

ONLY THE NUE, A VOID-TYPE GREAT AYAKASHI, CAN DO IT!

KRIK

KRIK

KREE

I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK...

...AS YOU PERFORM THIS CEREMONY.

DASH
AOI!
YOU MUSTN'T, HIMARI.
WE SHIKIGAMI CANNOT FOLLOW HIM INTO THAT CAVERN.
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DUTY THAT THE OMAMORI-SAMA MUST PERFORM.

CHANG
CHANG

H

H

H

H

CHANG

CHANG

DASH

AOI!

YOU MUSTN'T, HIMARI.

WE SHIKIGAMI CANNOT FOLLOW HIM INTO THAT CAVERN.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DUTY THAT THE OMAMORI-SAMA MUST PERFORM.

AS A VOID-TYPE AYAKASHI, HE HAS NO TRUE FORM.
THIS IS A TASK THAT ONLY NUE CAN PERFORM.

IN ORDER TO CALM A MALEVOLENT DEMON AND RETURN IT TO SLEEP...
...HE SIMPLY ALLOWS IT TO POSSESS HIS BODY...
...THEN HE SEALS THE DEMON AWAY.

IN ORDER TO CALM A MALEVOLENT DEMON AND RETURN IT TO SLEEP...

...HE SIMPLY ALLOWS IT TO POSSESS HIS BODY...

...THEN HE SEALS THE DEMON AWAY.

AS A VOID-TYPE AYAKASHI, HE HAS NO TRUE FORM.

THIS IS A TASK THAT ONLY NUE CAN PERFORM.

AOI!
I MUST STOP HIM.
NO!
DASH
HIMARI!
REMEMBER HOW HE IS REFERRED TO AS THE CURRENT NUE?
NO TRUE FORM? BUT ISN'T THAT AOI?!
THAT'S WHAT HE IS TO THEM.

DASH

HIMARI!

REMEMBER HOW HE IS REFERRED TO AS THE CURRENT NUE?

NO TRUE FORM? BUT ISN'T THAT AOI?!

THAT'S WHAT HE IS TO THEM.

AOI!

I MUST STOP HIM.

NO!

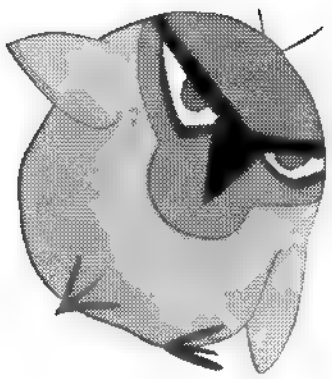
CONGRATULATIONS.

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER
11

The Nue of Chinui Cavern



CONGRAT-ULATIONS, NUE.

CHANG

CHANG

CHANG

THE SEAL ON CHINUI CAVERN WILL BE REPLACED.

HOW WON-DERFUL.

THE SEAL ON CHINUI CAVERN RESTRAINS THE DEMON KNOWN AS SOGA. HIS MALEVOLENT ENERGY IS QUITE POWERFUL.

NO OTHER AYAKASHI ASIDE FROM THE MANY GENERATIONS OF NUE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERFORM THE RITUAL TO RESEAL HIM.

I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK AS YOU PERFORM THIS CEREMONY.

KREE

I MUST STOP HIM.

KA-CHAK

BAM BAM

AOI!

AOI!

AOI...!

TUG

STOP THAT.

YOU'RE DRESSED AS A SHIKIGAMI.

OUR DUTY IS TO CALMLY WAIT FOR THE NUE TO RETURN.

THEN...

DON'T TROUBLE THE NUE WITH YOUR WORRYING.

BUT...

I KNOW IT'S AN IMPORTANT TASK.

WHY DID HE BRING ME HERE?

THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF THING WHERE I CAN WAIT FOR HIM LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL

OH

IF HE IS IN PAIN OR FEELS EVEN A LITTLE TROUBLED...

I WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO HIS HEART.

...I WANT TO STAY BY AOI'S SIDE.

THAT'S WHY...

HUH?!

THE FEMALE SHIKIGAMI WILL BE COMING WITH US. WE HAVE A TASK FOR HER.

GRAB

HIMARI!

HIMARI...

SHIKIGAMI.

PLEASE WAIT QUIETLY.

IMP

EVEN SO, WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT! I'LL GO IN HER PLACE.

A TASK FOR A SHIKIGAMI? I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!

SHOOM

SILENCE!

SHOOM

SILENCE.

SILENCE.

IT'S NOT TOO BIG A TASK.

BUT...

...IT'S NECESSARY TO MAKE SURE THE NUE PERFORMS THE SEALING RITE ON SOGA WITHOUT INCIDENT.

I AM THE GUARDIAN OF CHINUI CAVERN. YOU WILL HEED MY REQUEST.

RHM

VEEN

I NOTICED THE NUE KEPT YOU BY HIS SIDE AT THE PARTY

SHIKIGAMI ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THIS PLACE.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE YOU AS A LAST RESORT AGAINST HIM.

AMAZING. SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE.

WE NEED THIS GIRL

AM I BEING TAKEN HOSTAGE?!

A LAST RESORT AGAINST THE NUE?

MMBL

BUT NOW THAT HE'S GROWN MORE POWERFUL, HE IS DANGER-OUS. WE NEED TO DO THIS TO COMPLETE THE SEAL

MMBL

AT THE LAST SEALING RITE. THE NUE'S VESSEL WAS THAT OF A YOUNG BOY. SO WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.

MMBL

CAPTURE HER!

DASH

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO AOI!

HEY... STOP!

OH!

!

HOW INTERESTING. YOU'LL BE EVEN MORE USEFUL.

YOU'RE A HUMAN?!

WHAT'S THIS SMELL? SHIKIGAMI, YOU...

NUE!

OH NO!

YOU MUSTN'T REMOVE IT.

SPLISH

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, YOU PERNICIOUS DEMON WHO TAKES HUMAN FORM...

YOU STILL BEAR ILL WILL, I SEE.

FSSH

NUE...

...ARE YOU READY TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY?

SOGA.

THIS IS GETTING ANNOY-ING.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GUARDIAN. WHY ARE YOU DELAYING ME?

I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I'VE MADE A FEW OTHER PREPARATIONS.

NUE!

...

KRIK

KRIK

KRIK

...YOU ARE FREED FROM THESE THOUSAND NEEDLES...

NOW THEN...

LET'S BEGIN.

YANK

SOGA, THE EVIL DEMON SEALED AWAY HERE...

POSSESS NUE'S BODY...

THOSE

TEN THOU-SAND REASONS TO HATE...

PAIN...

AAH ...!

GAAR

HE'S ENTERING!

HIE

TEN THOU-SAND GRUDGES ...

...ARE SEEPING INTO MY BODY...

GH

NUE!

TAKE A LOOK.

SOGA WAS A MAN POSSESSED BY TEN THOUSAND GRUDGES.

THESE GRUDGES DEVOURED HIM, AND NOW HE IS A DEMON WITHOUT FORM.

IS HE... TALKING TO ME?

NUE HAS TAKEN HIM INTO HIS BODY AND IS MOLDING HIM INTO THE FORM OF A PERSON.

THEN NUE WILL SEAL HIM AWAY WITH NEEDLES ONCE AGAIN.

HURRY UP, NUE!

PLACE THE NEEDLES BACK INTO SOGA AND SEAL HIM BEFORE HE GOES BERSERK!

HUFF

NUE...

NUE ...

AH... WHAT A POWERFUL VESSEL.

I FEEL FULL OF POWER.

HOW ABOUT IT, NUE?

DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE OUR ENERGY YOUR OWN?

YOU COULD DO IT.

NUE IS ACTING STRANGELY!

OH NO.

NUE'S POWER HAS GROWN...

...BUT SOGA HAS SYNCHRONIZED WITH HIS BODY AND IS QUICKLY GAINING POWER TOO.

YOU UNDER-STAND THE HATRED I FEEL FROM BEING TRAPPED...

NUE IS UNABLE TO CONTROL HIS LARGER VESSEL!

...

COME!

?!

WHAT IS THE GUARDIAN PLANNING TO DO?

YOU'RE THE LAST RESORT.

TMP

HIMARI?

YOU BASTARD...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIMARI?

OH

HUH?!

KR

SSH

TMP

NUE?!

TMP

TMP

TMP

WHY DID YOU...

...BRING HIMARI HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU PLAN-NING?

I KNEW THAT GIRL WAS DEAR TO YOU.

VISH

THI

KNOW YOUR PLACE, GUARDIAN!

HOW DARE YOU TRY TO USE HER!

URK...

KRRK

PERHAPS I'LL DESTROY THE SEAL...

STOP IT, AOI!

I'M FINE, SO CUT IT OUT!

THIS ISN'T THE WAY THE NUE USUALLY ACTS...

GRIN

I KNEW IT.

I KNEW THAT GIRL'S VOICE...

...WOULD REACH YOUR HEART.

TEAR ME INTO A THOUSAND PIECES...

...IF IT WILL GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND.

BUT PLEASE...

PLEASE SEAL AWAY SOGA!

...CALM YOUR HEART AND REPLACE THE SEAL.

HOW DARE YOU STOP ME!

NUE!

NUE!

DASH!

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

ガッ

ズ

ズ

ズ

KR

E

TMp

MY CONGRATU-LATIONS.

BOW

SOGA HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN SEALED AND PUT TO SLEEP.

THAT MAN...

...AND BURNED DOWN THE ENTIRE CAPITAL.

...TRICKED ME...

HE SAID...

...IT WAS REVENGE FOR DESTROYING HIS CLAN.

THEN ...

THE GRUDGES OF THE PEOPLE HE KILLED DEVOURED HIS SOUL...

...AND HE BECAME A MALEV-OLENT DEMON.

IN THE END, HE SEALED HIMSELF AWAY WITH A THOUSAND NEEDLES.

...IN ORDER TO KEEP GUARD OVER THAT SEAL.

I'M AN INSIGNIFICANT EXISTENCE.

I...

...BECAME AN AYAKASHI...

I'VE CALLED ON THE NUE'S POWER...

...TO REPLACE THE NEEDLES COUNTLESS TIMES.

AND...

I KEPT WATCH TO MAKE SURE THOSE TEN THOUSAND GRUDGES WOULDN'T GET OUT OF CONTROL.

IF A DAY COMES WHEN ALL GRUDGES ARE SETTLED...

...I'D LIKE TO MOURN FOR THAT MAN NAMED SOGA...

...WHO WAS MY FRIEND.

THIS NUE...

...I SEEM TO HAVE MISJUDGED HIS STRENGTH. AND FOR THAT, I AM VERY SORRY.

YOU PER-FORMED THE RESEALING RITE...

...QUITE SPLENDIDLY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT ME HERE...

...TO HELP NUE OUT...

...RATHER THAN TAKE ME HOSTAGE.

NUE... WHY DID YOU BRING ME ALONG TODAY?

IT WAS A WHIM.

YOU'RE TALKING AS IF I'M A TROUBLE-MAKER!

?!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU CAUSING TROUBLE WHILE I WAS AWAY.

BUSH

JUST A WHIM?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HEADPIECE?

DO YOU PLAN ON GOING BACK TO THE PARTY SMELLING LIKE A HUMAN?

AAAAH!

I MUST HAVE DROPPED IT SOMEWHERE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

FOOSH

?!

IS A YOUNG GIRL IN TROUBLE?

HELLO!

FLUT

IT FELL FROM MY FLOWER HAIRPIN.

OH!

THAT FLOWER PETAL.

W-WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!

HUH?!

The flower?!

HI THERE!

POOF

THAT'S JUST SPYING...

SILENCE!

FLOWERS ARE MY KIN! ♡ I WAS WATCHING WHERE YOUR LOVE WOULD GO USING THOSE FLOWER PETALS!

IT'S AN AFTERCARE SERVICE!

MY HEADPIECE!

I FOUND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR TOO.

OH.

BUT I'M NOT AN AYAKASHI.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU!

You really helped me out!

POOF

FLOWER...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF A GIRL WHO'S WORKING HARD IS AYAKASHI OR HUMAN.

ARGH!

Pretend you didn't hear that!

GIFT?

HE'S VERY HANDSOME! ♡♡♡

OH

IS HE THE ONE YOU'RE GIVING THE GIFT OF LOVE TO?

SO ANY-WAY...

SWIP

THESE PETALS REMIND ME OF SPRING IN THE CAPITAL.

HE'S DANGEROUS...

...BUT I'VE NEVER MET A NUE QUITE LIKE HIM.

I'VE HAD THIS CEREMONY PERFORMED MANY TIMES...

...BUT BROAD-MINDED...

I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT WILL PLAY OUT IN THE FUTURE.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR HEART TOUCHED BY THAT YOUNG NUE?

ARE YOU ABLE TO HEAR MY VOICE A LITTLE?

BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.

LET'S GO BACK TO SLEEP AGAIN.

DESPITE ALL THAT HAPPENED, I NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

YAWN

YESTER-DAY...

I'M GOING NOW!

SHIA

IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.

TAKE CARE, HIMARI.

SEE YOU LATER.

AOI...

DASH
AH!
WAIT A SECOND, HIMARI.
HM?
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
HUH? WHAT IS IT?!
JUST WAIT.
THERE.
I'M DONE.
WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S A FLOWER TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE, I SUPPOSE.

TMP

THAT RING...

AOI...

WHO...

...MADE THAT FOR YOU?!

GR

AB

HUH?!

TELL ME WHO GAVE THAT TO YOU!

WHO IS THIS PERSON?!

Chapter 11/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

This is the third volume of *Momochi*. I'm surprised it's already this far along. The more I write, the more I need to write. And if I write one thing, I'm not able to write other things... It's agony, but I have a lot of fun. I'd like to build up this story, so I hope you continue to join me... There will be many more fun things to come!

After-word

Special Thanx

Norico Ogawa　Maico Yoshise
Aya Maeda
Juri Kodama　Naoko Kimura
Kanae Saitoh　Rica Kasahara
Sachico Hiyo

and MMCS Team ♥

I imagine this cover at twilight.
Come to think of it, whenever I draw
Himari's eyes in black and white,
I draw them like they're reflecting
the setting sun. Perhaps it's the
impression I get from the colors.

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25.
Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels,
sewing and daydreaming. She currently
lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop
anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

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Shojo Beat Edition

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